

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently Amended) A cooking vessel for cooking food under pressure, said vessel comprising:

a cooking bowl and a lid, said bowl being provided with engagement means suitable for co-operating with locking means that extend substantially radially over the lid and that are movable ~~configured for being moved~~ to lock and unlock the lid on the bowl; and

support means disposed between the lid and the locking means so that, ~~at a time~~ when the lid is locked on the bowl, the locking means come to bear against the support means;

the lid and the bowl being shaped so that, ~~at a time~~ when the lid is placed onto the bowl, the lid penetrates significantly into the bowl to form an "internal-mount" lid, until the locking means come to bear against the engagement means which form abutment means for the lid; and

the said support means subdividing the lid, so that said lid includes ~~into~~ one or more fixed angular sectors that are held by the locking means, and one or more free angular sectors that are not held by the locking means, said support means and the lid being dimensioned to enable the free sector(s) of the lid to be deformed in controlled manner under the effect of the pressure prevailing in the bowl.

2. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 1, wherein the bowl-covering portion of the lid defines an outer edge, and the bowl is provided with a rim that has a top limit, the support means being dimensioned so that, at a time when the lid is locked on the bowl and when the vessel is not under pressure, they generate a first predetermined amount of vertical clearance between said top limit and that portion of the outer edge which defines the free sector(s), and, at a time when said lid is locked on the bowl and when the vessel is under pressure, they generate a second amount of vertical clearance between said top limit and said portion of the outer edge, the difference between the first amount of clearance and the second amount of clearance resulting from the free sector(s) deforming under the effect of the pressure prevailing in the bowl.

3. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 2, wherein the support means and the lid are dimensioned so that, at a time when the vessel is subjected to a rated pressure, the second amount of clearance is substantially zero in those zones of the free sector(s) which undergo the largest amount of deformation, the outer edge then coming substantially flush with the top limit of the rim of the bowl.
4. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 1, wherein the support means are formed by bearing ramps.
5. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 4, wherein the bearing ramps are formed by projections provided on the lid, substantially vertically in register with the locking means.
6. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 4, wherein the bearing ramps are formed by separated parts.
7. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 1, wherein the locking means are formed by two jaws that are substantially symmetrical to each other about the center of the lid, said jaws extending substantially radially.
8. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 2, wherein the engagement means are formed by the portion(s) of the rim of the bowl that is/are situated substantially vertically in register with the jaws, the jaws coming to bear against the rim in order to lock the lid.
9. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 4, wherein the support means are formed by two pairs of bearing ramps, each pair of bearing ramps being situated under a corresponding jaw.
10. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 9, wherein the two pairs of bearing ramps are positioned on the same geometrical circle.
11. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 1, wherein the locking means are formed by a locking bar that is suitable for co-operating with corresponding lugs mounted on the bowl, said lugs forming engagement means for engaging the locking means.

12. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 2, wherein the bowl-covering portion of the lid is extended by a side wall that extends downwards so as to fit the shape of the inside wall of the bowl with a small amount of radial clearance.

13. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 12, wherein the bottom end of the side wall of the lid has a fold arranged to receive a sealing gasket.

14. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 2, wherein the rim of the bowl has an annular top margin presenting substantially the same external curvature as the lid.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 7, wherein the engagement means are formed by the portion(s) of the rim of the bowl that is/are situated substantially vertically in register with the jaws, the jaws coming to bear against the rim in order to lock the lid.